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LETTER DATED 19 APRIL 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Recently, in a number of official documents prepared by the United Nations Secretariat and Security Council and dealing with the major conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and especially in connection with the massive aggression in the Kelbajar district, the name "Nagorny Karabakh" has been used without any indication of the fact that the area belongs to the Azerbaijani Republic.

Perhaps this was due to an oversight or to stylistic considerations; however, a number of other circumstances compels us to assume that the terminology used in official documents dealing with this problem, imposed on the United Nations by the Armenian side, is one of the elements of Armenia's carefully conceived strategy to provide a legal basis for and justify its consistent plan to seize Nagorny Karabakh from Azerbaijan.

The current phase of Armenia's open aggression against Azerbaijan was preceded by the Armenian Parliament's passage of an act on Armenia's annexation of Nagorny Karabakh, an area that the entire international community recognizes as an integral part of Azerbaijan. Yet for some time Armenia has been circulating letters within the United Nations from the so-called "Nagorny Karabakh Republic" in which, in particular, the fact that military actions are being conducted against Azerbaijan was openly admitted.

At the same time, efforts are constantly being made to assure us that the Republic of Armenia is not questioning Azerbaijan's territorial integrity and has nothing to do with the military actions that have led to the occupation of more than 10 per cent of the territory of Azerbaijan.

Under these circumstances, the use of the designation "Nagorny Karabakh" in Secretariat and Security Council documents without any acknowledgement that the area belongs to Azerbaijan suits Armenia, which has occupied almost all of Nagorny Karabakh and is trying to make the world forget that the area is part of Azerbaijan, but absolutely does not suit Azerbaijan, which is waging a just struggle for its territorial integrity.

In the light of the foregoing, we request that in the future the following designation for the region be obligatory in all official United Nations documents prepared by the Secretariat and the Security Council: "Nagorny Karabakh area of the Azerbaijani Republic". This will effectively confirm Azerbaijan's territorial integrity and sovereignty and the inviolability of its borders.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hassan A. HASSANOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative